



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF BOHOL  
City of Tagbilaran



OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN  
**THE 28<sup>TH</sup> BOHOL LEGISLATURE**

**EXCERPT FROM THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BOHOL HELD AT THE SENATOR BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR. SESSION HALL, BOHOL PROVINCIAL CAPITOL BUILDING, LINO CHATTO DRIVE, TAGBILARAN CITY, ON APRIL 13, 2021.**

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Rene L. Relampagos .....	Vice Governor, Presiding Officer
Hon. Dionisio Victor A. Balite, Ph.D. ....	Senior Member, <i>On line</i>
Hon. Vierna Mae Boniel-Maglasang. ....	Member
Hon. Aldner R. Damalerio .....	Member
Hon. Restituto B. Auxtero .....	Member
Hon. Ricky U. Masamayor .....	Member, Floor Leader
Hon. Lucille Y. Lagunay .....	Member
Hon. Elpidio M. Jala, Ph.D. ....	Member
Hon. Elpidio L. Bonita, M.D. ....	Member
Hon. Jescelo S. Adiong. ....	Member, Ex-Officio, PCL
Hon. Romulo G. Cepedoza, D.M.D. ....	Member, Ex-Officio, Liga ng mga Barangay
Hon. Christian Victor S. Bolos III. ....	Member, Ex-Officio, SK Federation President

**ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:**

Hon. Frans Gelaine Garcia-Devenosa ..... Member, Asst. Floor Leader

**ABSENT:**

Hon. Jone Jade A. Bautista. .... Member, Asst. Floor Leader, *On Leave*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-392-A**

**OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 7853, SEEKING TO AMEND SECTION 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998".**

(Sponsored by **Hon. Ricky U. Masamayor**)  
(Co-sponsored by **Hon. Restituto B. Auxtero, Hon. Jone Jade A. Bautista,**  
and the **Honorable Presiding Officer, Vice Governor Rene Lopez Relampagos**)

"WHEREAS, the Rules for commercial fishing vessels have been promulgated on October 12, 2020 (Fisheries Administrative Order 266, series of 2020) by the BFAR;

"WHEREAS, the Municipal and City Local Government Units (LGUs) are mandated by law to manage, protect and conserve fisheries and aquatic resources within their municipal waters, especially for the benefit of the marginal and subsistence fisherfolks who are directly dependent on these resources;

"WHEREAS, FAO 266 will be a big boost to the capacity of LGUs to have a system to monitor, control, and surveillance of municipal waters as required by law and to ensure the enforcement of fisheries and coastal laws;

"WHEREAS, HB7853 was filed by Congressman Pablo John Garcia which seeks to amend Section 18 of Republic Act 8550 and allow commercial fishing in municipal waters;



"WHEREAS, the amended, Fisheries Code of the Philippines (RA 10654) prohibits commercial fishing and active gears in municipal waters to protect the preferential rights of municipal fishers;

"WHEREAS, given the current state of Philippine Fisheries that majority of fish stocks (70%) are considered overfished resulting to both decline in commercial and municipal fisheries production since 2010. This is why Fisheries Management Areas were established to adopt the ecosystems approach to fisheries management for sustainable fisheries;

"WHEREAS, the said House Bill has not even mentioned the amendatory law, RA10654, which established 12 Fisheries Management areas that would govern the allowable fishery activities within municipal waters and beyond with rigorous scientific reference points and harvest control measures. Expanding more fishing grounds in municipal waters for potential operations of commercial fishers would run counter to the FMA system;

"WHEREAS, the municipal waters with their critical marine habitats should be protected and spared from active and destructive fishing gears. Most highly productive critical habitats such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves are located in municipal waters and are important in the life cycle of many marine organisms including pelagic fishes such as sardines;

"WHEREAS, governing municipal waters is the local government's responsibility and it is our biggest asset for the livelihood of our fisherfolk and for our children to experience the same abundance we've inherited from our fathers;

"WHEREAS, our municipal fisherfolk have the constitutionally granted preferential right to municipal waters and they contribute to food security and are important stewards of the ocean and they are the responsibility of local governments which should protect them and give them voice;

"WHEREAS, during this pandemic, fishing sustained coastal communities and has been the source of sustenance for communities which contributed to less crimes because people had food to eat;

"WHEREAS, the Bill seeks to provide an exception to the existing laws allowing commercial fishing only in municipal waters only if several criteria are met and will unduly legitimize an otherwise prohibited act;

"WHEREAS, instead of allowing commercial fishing in municipal waters and stopping the implementation of FAO 266 what is needed is to implement fully the amended Fisheries Code of the Philippines (Republic Act 10654) to ensure that our fisheries resources are managed based on science and for Local Government Units to strengthen and increase the capacity for monitoring, control and surveillance of municipal waters to enforcement and implementation of our fisheries and environmental laws;

"WHEREAS, in accordance with this mandate, the Province of Bohol has implemented the coastal and fisheries resource management programs, including fishery law enforcement efforts against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing within the municipal waters in order to ensure wise use and sustainable management of their fisheries and aquatic resources;

"WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to stop the approval of HB 7853 as this will further threaten the protection and management of fish stocks under RA 10654 and FAO 263;

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"WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bohol in session duly assembled -

To oppose House Bill 7853, seeking to amend Section 18 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Fisheries Code of 1998".

"RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the House of Representatives and the DA-BFAR, and other concerned agencies for information and appropriate action;

"APPROVED."

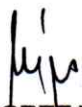
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I hereby certify to the correctness of the above-quoted Resolution.



**BONIFACIO M. QUIROG, JR., J.D., Ph.D.**  
Secretary, Sangguniang Panlalawigan

ATTESTED:



**RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS**  
Vice Governor  
Presiding Officer